

## Message Text

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43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INT-05 GSA-02 CIEP-02 CEA-01 STR-04 /041 W

----- 004312

R 021630Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 4023

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS MILAN 0834

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, XG

SUBJECT: ITALIAN STEEL MARKET CONDITIONS

REF ROME 6334, STATE 095936

1. ASSIDER (ITALIAN STEEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION), MILAN REPORTED THAT ITALIAN RAW STEEL AND FINISHED PRODUCT PRODUCTION IN 1974 TOTALLED 23,823,000 METRIC TONS. PRODUCTION FOR 1975 IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT 25,000,000 METRIC TONS. CAPACITY UTILIZATION OF ITALIAN STEEL MILLS WAS CALCULATED TO BE ABOUT 85 PERCENT IN 1974. UTILIZATION DURING 1975 IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 75 PERCENT PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF A LARGE BLAST FURNACE WHICH STARTED OPERATIONS AT TARANTO EARLY IN JANUARY.

FOLLOWING ITALIAN CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT ESTIMATES ARE PREDECATED UPON CONSERVATIVE ASSUMPTIONS BY INDUSTRY OF CONTINUED SLOW DOWN IN ITALIAN ECONOMY. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS GUIDE, THESE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT EXTENT OF ITALIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS MAY BE OVERDRAWN. WE ARE MORE INCLINED TO EXPECT UPTURN IN MONTHS AHEAD.

B. DOMESTIC CONSUPTION TOTALLED 22,797,000 METRIC TONS IN 1974. FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IT IS ESTIMATED AT 21 MILLION METRIC TONS.

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C. STOCKS AT YEAR END 1974 AMOUNTED TO 5,100,000 METRIC

TONS, 860,000 METRIC TONS HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.  
STOCKS AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 WERE  
REPORTED TO HAVE RISEN SLIGHTLY AND TO BE SLIGHTER  
HIGHER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR AGO.

D. ITALIAN STEEL EXPORTS IN 1974 TOTALLED 6,324,000  
METRIC TONS. LOCAL EXPERTS PREDICT EXPORTS  
OF 10 TO 11,000,000 METRIC TONS IN 1975. IN 1974  
EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES TOTALLED 302,310 METRIC  
TONS VALUED AT 64.6 BILLION LIRE. FIRM STATISTICS ON  
EXPORTS TO US FOR THE FIRST PART OF 1975 ARE NOT YET AVAIL-  
ABLE. THESE AND ESTIMATES OF EXPORTS AND PRICES FOR REMAINDER  
1975 WILL FOLLOW.

E. ITALIAN STEEL IMPORTS FOR 1974 TOTALLED 6,170,000  
METRIC TONS. FOR 1975 THEY ARE ESTIMATED TO BE  
5.5 TO 6 MILLION METRIC TONS.FINA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STEEL, IMPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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